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CANADIAN TIRE: Thayer Bouck collects misprint and other oddball store coupons

Fonthill senior sticking with the real McTire

GREG FURNINGER
(MI) Agency Niagara

Canadian Tire money is going digital — but Thayer Bouck is sticking with the real McCoy, or, if you will, the real McTire.

Most Canucks have a stash of the retailer's cash in a kitchen junk drawer, a dress, a glove compartment, or lying scattered in a dusty garage — or in all of those places.

But not this 79-year-old retired Eastdale Secondary School math teacher.

"I'd be close to having 100 three-ring binders full of Canadian Tire coupons," Bouck said proudly.

The coupons are preserved in plastic sleeves and labelled according to oddities, including palindromic serial numbers, mismatched serial numbers, missing serial numbers, differences in the appearance of Sandy McTire (a straw in his

mouth or a toothpick, a difference in his scarf, as examples).

He even has some counterfeits.

The Fonthill man's most unusual ones are clear misprints: the back printed on the front side of paper, colours and logos missing, poorly cut bills. He has several that are just grey and black ink — no denomination, no logo, no Sandy.

He also has an assortment from the original nine series of Canadian Tire Gas Bar coupons featuring a happy tire and dollar sign, Canadian Tire's first logo. "I think the joy of collecting it is it's a passionate hobby," said Bouck, who admitted after he receives his Canadian Tire money at the checkout, that's what he does — checks it out closely before he even gets out of the store.

Well, now there's change. Canadian Tire announced last week that it is launching a smartphone app and wallet-

sized rewards card to be used to collect and redeem Canadian Tire money — e-Canadian Tire money — instead of the paper stuff.

"I heard about it about a month ago, and they swore me to secrecy," Bouck quipped.

In moving to the digital age, Canadian Tire announced its 56-year-old loyalty program is evolving with My Canadian Tire Money. The easier way to collect and redeem its iconic currency — and also donate it to the retailer's Jumpstart charity or trade with others, upon request — launches in Nova Scotia Oct. 10 and to customers nationally Oct. 28.

See MONEY on Page 2

GREG FURNINGER/STAFF PHOTO

You won't catch Thayer Bouck of Fonthill switching to Canadian Tire's new digital rewards program. He's very content collecting the real McTire.



ABOUT CANADIAN TIRE MONEY

Canadian Tire started operations in 1922. Canadian Tire money was introduced in 1958.

The Scottish Sandy McTire character was designed by employee Bernie Freeman and is still pictured today.

He has appeared on the bills since 1961. They originally featured a smiling tire and dollar sign — the Canadian Tire logo from 1926.

More than \$1 billion in Canadian Tire money notes have been in circulation.

Paper Canadian Tire money is available in denominations of 5c, 10c, 25c, 50c, \$1 and \$2.

Through its loyalty programs, Canadian Tire awards more than \$100 million to customers every year.

Many communities collect and donate Canadian Tire money to support local fundraising efforts.

Introduced in 1995, there are now 2.4 million Canadian Tire Options MasterCard cardholders in Canada.

Visit the Canadian Tire Coupon Collectors Club at www.ctcc.ca.



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LOCAL NEWS

■ MONEY

'I'm looking thoroughly for things that messed up'

From Page 1

But bank on this, the paper money will carry on. The digital rewards program will simply complement paper Canadian Tire money.

"As Canada's oldest loyalty program, we know Canadian Tire money holds an extraordinary place in the hearts of Canadians," Canadian Tire chief operating officer Allan MacDonald said in a news release.

My Canadian Tire Money members will receive exclusive bonus offers sent directly to their online account and smartphone.

"Meeting customer needs has always been at the heart of our innovation strategy, ensuring that everything we do has a positive end-benefit for the consumer," said MacDonald. "My Canadian Tire Money will serve as a great complement to our existing data programs, allowing us over time to increase the relevancy of our messages, provide a more personalized and tailor-made approach and, ultimately, better serve our customers."

Well, Bouck is quite content the way things are now.

"You're missing all if you're missing it (if you choose to go digital)," he said while looking over his odd assortment of coupons.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON QMI AGENCY NIAGARA FACEBOOK PAGES

"I like my Canadian tire money, I like it the way it is." — Owen N Stephanie Hardison

"My dad works with someone that has so much Canadian Tire money that he can take a duffel bag full into the store and pay for the entire item he's buying." — Holly Marie Wilcox

"I bought a \$300 treadmill all in Canadian Tire money. I don't think the people in line behind me liked it too much. Lol." — Tracy Standing Loder

"My 12-year-old loves to save them." — Maggie Rietveld

"This has been talked about for years! I was a cashier at my local CT over

five years ago and I heard talk about digital CT money. As a former cashier let me tell you, I appreciate that there's the option for a card. It may be wonderful to spend the CT money but it is not wonderful to count, especially when you're the only cashier open." — Camille Mann

"I stood behind a guy who counted out enough money to pay for his fishing licence; I welcome the change." — Tanya GR

"I hate getting the paper money so, I see this as a good thing." — Samantha Geen
"Oh hi CT, welcome to 2014!" — Preston Richards

"When I go over them, I go so slowly because I'm looking thoroughly for things that messed up."

Although Bouck can cash in any time at the check-out, the only real "value" in keeping his oddities is to the individual collector. Unlike legal tender for which misprints can reap big prices, Bouck's misprints are still only worth their face value — if it has been printed at — although he has a \$2 Canadian Tire coupon he figures is worth a C-note.

"Those who enjoy collecting and saving the coupons will continue to do it," said Bouck, who headed the 300-member Canadian Tire Coupon Collectors Club for seven years until he stepped down for health reasons two years ago.

He still is and has been a member of the club, which celebrates its silver anniversary next year, for 23 years.

"We kid as members of the coupon club that if a member uses his money to buy something at the store, he's kicked out."

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■ ELECTION

ALLAN BENNER
QMI Agency Niagara

Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn is defending his job against two political newcomers — Mark Bay and Zachary Junkin.

But Augustyn's competitors are confident it's time for a change. Father and son team Zachary and Marvin Junkin chose to get involved in the election this year, running for mayor and Ward 1 respectively, concerned about increasing development in town.

"We just feel that perhaps the development of the town has reached the saturation point as far as houses being built and subdivisions and traffic... We thought if there's people out there feeling the same way we do that enough is enough and it's time to put an end to or at least to slow down the development taking place," he said. "We thought we would be able to provide an alternative if there is a segment of the population out there that's interested in change."

Bay, a volunteer firefighter and electrical contractor, said "town hall needs cleaning up."

"I think we need someone who is a little more aggressive for the sake of a better word," he said. "If

Mayor (One to be elected):

Dave Augustyn (I)
Mark Bay
Zachary Junkin

Ward 1 (Two to be elected):

Marvin Junkin
James Lane (I)
Richard Rybak (I)

Ward 2 (Two to be elected):

Gary Accursi (I)
Larry Frost
Catherine King (I)

Ward 3 (Two to be elected):

Justin O'Donnell
Andrew Robertson

Ward 4 (Two to be elected):

Wally Braun
John Durley (I)
Bill Hesse

Ward 5 (Two to be elected):

Peter Papp (I)

Niagara Region (One

WHO'S RUNNING

to be elected:

Anthony Annunziata
Brian Batty (I)
Jim Inman

English public school board (One to be elected):

John Piccolo
Dele Anne Robinson

English Catholic school board (One to be elected):

Paul MacNeil

French public school board candidates (One to be elected):

Derrick Fournier

French Catholic school board candidates (One to be elected):

Wafik Abadir
Julies Letourneau

you have a construction background you kind of see what's being done right and what should be done better."

Augustyn said his work during the past eight years would help convince voters to re-elect him.

"I think this campaign is about leadership and in my case, proven

leadership," Augustyn said. "We've produced some significant results under my service as mayor over the last eight years and I believe I have shown people I have the vision the commitment and the experience to continue to work together with them to move the community forward."

allan.benner@sunmedia.ca
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LOCAL NEWS

■ **MUNICIPAL ELECTION:** Tara Druzina was planning to run in Ward 1

Former town employee withdraws from council race

DAN DAKIN
QMI Agency Niagara

An outspoken former Town of Pelham employee who had been facing a lawsuit from the town has decided to pull out of the council race.

Tara Druzina, who was fired as an administrative assistant in Pelham's planning department last October, was a candidate in Ward 1. She announced last week she was withdrawing her name and said she felt she could be more effective as a watchdog from outside looking in.

"There is a possibility that more than half of the current council is returning," she said in an e-mail. "Their mandate and goals are set and their opinion of me conformed. My voice on council would be diminutive.

"My experience of over 25 years in multi-levels of government and my energy will be better spent in an educational and advocacy role."

After her employment was terminated last fall, Druzina was paid a \$20,000 severance by the town in November and, in return, agreed to "not interfere with Pelham's operations or business practices," court documents showed.

In the first two months of 2014, Druzina filed 12 Freedom of Information requests, half of which were

approved. On March 21, the town served her with a notice she was being sued.

"It is evident that your requests are part of a pattern of conduct that amounts to an abuse of the right of access and would interfere with the operations of the town," the document stated.

She filed her paperwork to run for council April 24, and at some point over the summer, the lawsuit was settled out of court.

Neither Druzina or Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn would elaborate on the terms of the settlement, but Druzina said her decision to leave the council race had nothing to do with it.

"There was no direct pressure, although, as a result of the current council's actions over the past year towards me, I did not feel that the red carpet was rolled out ... but that was not impactful enough to base my decision on," she said.

Druzina said she will continue to push for more transparency from the Town of Pelham, and will monitor projects happening around town to make sure the town is "adhering to provincial, federal and municipal laws, policy and legislation."

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MARYANNE FURTH / STAFF PHOTO

Former Town of Pelham employee Tara Druzina is pulling out of the council race.

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COMMENT

The forgotten issues of Election 2014

DAVID SIEGEL
 For QMI Agency Niagara

We are now officially in the campaign season for the Oct. 27 municipal election.

I can make some fearless predictions about what we will hear from candidates — everyone wants to look like the line on taxes, create more jobs and yada, yada, yada. We've heard it all before.

However, some issues never seem to make it into the campaign.

I've prepared my list of topics that should be a part of municipal election campaigns, but usually don't make it.

■ **Vision** — The legendary architect and urban designer Daniel Burnham exhorted urban designers to "make no little plans." His worry was

that even grand designs get watered down, so we should never begin by thinking small.

I would like to hear about the vision a candidate has for what Niagara should look like 20 or 30 years from now, and what the candidate will do in the next four years to move us in that direction.

For example, the greater Toronto area is growing. Should Niagara become a bedroom community for Toronto? Or should it develop its own separate identity? Should Niagara focus growth in one or two areas, or decentralize growth to a number of nodes?

Should we continue to focus on single-family residential housing? Or should we develop medium or high-density residential? What type of transportation system should we develop to connect these areas?

I would like to hear a broad vision that goes beyond the next year or even four years.

■ **Globalization.** We are living in a globalizing world. (I'm not referring to shopping at the factory outlet mall in Niagara Falls.) Toronto and Vancouver are clearly becoming global city regions. Their place in the globalizing world is clear.

What will happen to all the smaller places surrounding these global city regions? Generally speaking, the major demographic shift in recent years has seen people moving from small and medium-size cities to larger urban areas.

What happens to smaller places as that shift continues? What plan does a candidate have to position Niagara in this globalizing world?

■ **Immigrant attraction.** This issue is related to global-

ization. Niagara does a poor job of attracting immigrants. With little immigration and a low birth rate among Canadians, it's not surprising that the Niagara census metropolitan area had one of the lowest growth rates in the 2006-2011 period.

Immigrant attraction also has an impact on globalization, since a large and vibrant immigrant community automatically provides a community with links to international markets.

■ **Poverty reduction.** Niagara has a serious poverty problem, particularly among single-parent families, young people and people with disabilities. Candidates will promise more jobs, but that is only one part of the solution.

We need to reduce the negative effects of poverty on children, develop supports for families living in poverty

and provide more affordable housing, among other initiatives.

While we're talking about things I would like to hear from candidates, I should mention one thing I don't want to hear.

I don't want to hear poverty (or some other issue) is someone else's problem. According to the Municipal Act, the mayor and by extension the full council is responsible to "enhance the economic, social and environmental well-being of the municipality and its residents."

Poverty reduction is everybody's issue. If a candidate does not want to improve the well-being of local residents, why is he or she running?

■ **Sustainability.** National and provincial governments talk about sustainability and climate change (well, not the

Canadian federal government, but that's another topic), but local governments are on the front line in terms of making the world a more sustainable place.

We need to reduce the distances between home, work and shopping. We need to make communities more walkable and bikeable. We need to find viable options to one-person, one-car modes of travel.

This is my partial list of issues that are forgotten during election campaigns. It would be interesting to develop a community discussion about other ones that get neglected.

David Siegel is a professor of political science at Brock University. His new book, *Leaders in the Shadows: The Leadership Qualities of Ministers, Cabinet Ministers, and Deputies*, is due out in December.

Shipwrecks — Black Prince

SKIP GILLHAM
 For QMI Agency Niagara

The *Black Prince* was built at Burntisland, Scotland, and launched on Oct. 15, 1954.

It entered service for the Prince Line the following March 8. The 113.36-metre-long motor vessel operated under the British flag and remained on saltwater routes until coming through the St. Lawrence Seaway for a single trip in 1967.

In 1971, the ship was sold to Greek interests and renamed *Maria B.* A fire broke out in the engine room on March 20, 1977, while the vessel was carrying drummed asphalt on a voyage from Port Harcourt, Nigeria, to Las Palmas, Canary Islands. The blaze spread throughout the ship and it sank on March 23.



PHOTO: PLEASE CREDIT JOHN LOW, COURTESY RENE BEAUCHAMP

LOCAL NEWS

Music master moves to Pelham site



MARYANNE FIRTH / STAFF PHOTO
Vicky Vlassis-Radulovich recently launched music school Strive Studios in Pelham, operated out of Fonthill United Church.

MARYANNE FIRTH
QMI Agency Niagara

For Vicky Vlassis-Radulovich, there's no better sound than that of her students developing their skills.

It's music to her ears. It's a sound the 34-year-old voice teacher wants to hear more of, not only in Grimsby where she opened Strive Studios four years ago, but also in her hometown of Pelham.

Vlassis-Radulovich, a Beamsville resident, recently launched a new Strive location, working out of Fonthill United Church.

She has been offering voice lessons at a small studio for several years, but positive feedback has prompted her to expand into a full music school and include not only voice but also piano, violin, guitar and bass instruction.

Vlassis-Radulovich, who has a master's degree in voice

and spent years performing across Ontario and in Europe, said many of Strive's students travel from across Niagara for lessons.

She's hopeful that launching a second location will increase convenience and improve accessibility to music lessons for people of all ages.

Strive's instructors are not only professional musicians but also trained educators, which Vlassis-Radulovich believes makes all the difference.

It ensures teachers not only specialize in their instrument, but also have the "capability and technical knowledge to ... transfer that information to students correctly and effectively," she said.

Staff at the Fonthill location include piano teacher Tatiana Korotkova, who holds a PhD in music education from the Russian Academy of Education in Moscow; violinist Jadwiga Pomorski, who holds a master's degree from the

Musik University of Katowice in Poland; and guitar and bass teacher Brent Wirth, a classically trained guitarist and lead performer in band Thought Beneath Film.

"Some people learn as a hobby and others take it really seriously," Vlassis-Radulovich said of music lessons, which are offered at Strive from beginner to advanced.

Lessons can help improve focus and cognitive function in children and to relieve stress in students of all ages, she added.

Vlassis-Radulovich knows first-hand the impact lessons can have on a person, having started piano and violin when she was only eight years old.

"It enlightens, it engages, it teaches focus, discipline and creativity," she said.

"I do love to perform, but my true calling is teaching."

Registration is ongoing. For more information, phone 289-929-9493 or visit www.strive-studios.com.

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- Drug coverage information. Did you receive a new insurance card from your employer? Confirming that this information is up to date can save yourself time when you come to pick up your medications.

2. ALWAYS CHECK IF YOUR PRESCRIPTION HAS REPEATS BEFORE YOU COMPLETELY RUN OUT OF MEDICATION. IT MAY TAKE US SEVERAL DAYS TO HEAR BACK FROM DOCTORS OFFICES FOR REPEATS, ESPECIALLY IF THE OFFICE IS CLOSED, OR IF YOU COME IN ON A WEEKEND. KNOWING HOW MANY REPEATS YOU HAVE ON A MEDICATION, AND ENSURING THAT THE PHARMACY HAS ADDITIONAL REPEATS ON FILE BEFORE YOU RUN OUT CAN SAVE YOU TIME AND FRUSTRATION.

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RECREATION PROGRAMS & CLASSES

Zumba Classes @ Pelham Arena

Tuesday September 23	9:30 am – 10:30 am	Wednesday September 24	7:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Tuesday September 23	7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Thursday September 25	10:00 am – 11:00 am

Drop in and try any session for \$6 or purchase your 10 + 2 bonus passes for \$60. For more information on any of the Zumba classes, please contact (905) 892-2607 ext. 329.

Walking Club - Everyone is welcome! – September 23 & 25

Interested in walking in Pelham? Interested in joining a Walking Club? Then join us! Tuesdays at Pelham Arena from 9-10 am and Thursdays at Fonthill Bandshell from 10-30 am. For more information, please contact (905) 892-2607 ext. 329.

Arena Programs

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Friday Sep 19 4:00 – 5:00 pm & 8:00 – 9:30 pm	Sunday Sep 21 1:00-2:20 pm	Tuesday Sep 23 4:00 – 5:00 pm & 7:30-8:30 pm	Thursday Sep 25 1:00 – 2:00 pm	Friday Sep 19 10:00 – 11 am Tuesday Sep 23 1:00 – 2:00 pm	Friday Sep 19 9:00 – 10:00 am Tuesday Sep 23 8:00 – 9:00 am	Thursday Sep 25 10:30 – 11:45 am Thursday Sep 25 9:30 – 10:30 am

COMMUNITY EVENTS & NEWS

Pelham Farmers' Market – May 1 until October 30 – Pelham Town Square – September 11 Market Bucks Winner: Trish Rybski

Come out and meet your local market vendors and purchase food that is fresh, high in quality and the next best thing to harvesting it yourself. Every Thursday from May 1 to October 30, 4:30pm till dusk. **At the Market:** Got an award winning salsa recipe? **Entries for the Salsa Contest are due September 18!** Make your submission in one of the four categories for a chance to win bragging rights as the best salsa in Pelham! • Green • Over the Top Hot • Red • Fruit. Judging will take place Thursday, September 25.

Join MYAC for the 2014-2015 Term – The Pelham Mayor's Youth Advisory Council is recruiting for the 2014-2015 term and applications are now being accepted. If interested, please visit pelham.ca/municipal-grants to complete the application form and to apply by September 19, 2014.

Fenwick 160th Anniversary Commemorative Bricks – The Village of Fenwick celebrated its 160th Anniversary in June 2013. Now you have the opportunity to be a part of Fenwick's future. Purchase a granite brick to be incorporated into the downtown Fenwick beautification project. Standard, double, veteran's & corporate bricks available. Order forms available at Town Hall or pelham.ca. The deadline has been extended, but don't delay!

Free ((Wi-Fi))) available @ Peace Park in Fonthill. Be sure to check it out when attending any special events or taking a stroll through the park!

CALL FOR MEMBERS – TOWN OF PELHAM GRANT AWARD COMMITTEE

The Town of Pelham is seeking three applicants to join the new Grant Award Committee, whose mandate is to provide advice and input into the municipal grant process to enable and encourage citizen involvement in community groups and in civic events related to the self-fulfilment of individuals, and to attempt to provide an excellent quality of life.

If interested, please visit pelham.ca/municipal-grants to complete the application form and to apply by September 30, 2014.

PELHAM VOTES ON OCTOBER 27, 2014



Are you on the voters' list?

Check to make sure you are by visiting pelham.ca/2014-election or stop by our booth at the Pelham Farmers' Market on Thursday nights in September.

BUSINESS

Expansion could add 200 jobs in St. Catharines

BOB MARINO
(M) Agency Niagara

A mobile phone service company that recently set up shop in St. Catharines will soon be hiring additional staff — as many as 200 jobs over the long term.

Ting, which opened a temporary office at One St. Paul St. in downtown St. Catharines in May, is close to finalizing a deal for a permanent facility a "stone's throw" from city hall with enough space to house 200 employees, said vice-president of customer experience Ross Rader.

"We will be growing into that space over the next few years," he said.

The company, a subsidiary of Tucows, provides mobile phone service to customers throughout the United States. The company pays to access the wireless network of Sprint in the U.S. at a wholesale price and resells it.

Ting currently has approximately 25 employees at its customer service centre at One St. Paul.

"I hate to call it just a call centre," Rader said. "We do our own customer service, we don't out-source. It's pretty unconventional."

"Our customer service people do everything, whether it's billing or sales or technical support. It's one stop, one call."

Rader said customer service jobs start at a pay rate of \$32,000 per year. He said the company will hold a job fair sometime in October as it begins adding staff leading into the move to the new office.

Ting was created in 2012 as a subsidiary of Tucows, a company that provides Internet services such as domain names to businesses.

The U.S. offers greater opportunities than Canada for smaller companies to access the infrastructure of larger players in the telecommunications industry, Rader said.

"The United States is a big market, there's a lot of opportunity down there," Rader said. "The U.S. telecom market is really favourable in terms of wholesale access, whereas Canada is less so. We would love to be here."

Rader said the company considered other communities, such as Buffalo, Welland, Hamilton, Barrie and Guelph, before

settling on St. Catharines as its third branch (it's headquarters are in Toronto, while it's handset delivery centre is in Starkville, Miss.).

"In every category, St. Catharines really stood out from the other cities we were looking at. Whether it be the demographics, the job market, the people who live there, the co-operation we get from the city — you name it, St. Catharines scored highly in those categories."

In its 2014 Competitive Alternatives report released in May, KPMG consultants ranked Niagara (its 12 municipalities as a whole) the sixth most competitive place to do business among 15 Canadian cities. The study ranked Niagara fourth-best for digital services and first for video-game production in that sector.

City of St. Catharines economic development officer Marco Marino drew high praise from Rader.

"He was A-1," Rader said. "He

was introducing us to landlords, showing us around the city and telling us about all the development projects He worked hard on selling us on St. Catharines — he didn't have to work as hard as he did."

Marino said attracting a company like Ting builds on the city's master plan for an interactive digital media cluster.

"That can be from call centres to video-production companies to the gaming industry. There's a multitude of companies that make up that sector," Marino said.

He noted those companies are attracted to St. Catharines in part because of a "very, very significant fibre optics hub in the (downtown) core. These types of companies require access to that type of bandwidth."

Marino said having Ting move into the downtown speaks to a return on investment the city has made in the core in recent years.

"It's a fantastic, great news story for St. Catharines."

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **JOB:** Manpower releases Q4 outlook

Job prospects rosy in Welland-Port Colborne

GREG FURMINGER
QMI-Agency Niagara

According to findings from the latest Manpower Employment Outlook Survey, made public last week, Niagara job prospects are rosiest in Welland for the coming months.

Manpower said employers are suggesting a "respectable hiring climate" in the Welland and Port Colborne areas for the final three months of 2014.

Survey data indicates 10% of employers plan to hire from October to December, while none anticipate cut-backs, said Giulia Moretti of Manpower's St. Catharines office.

That's up slightly from the same period last year.

Elsewhere in Niagara, things don't look as good for the coming months.

Three per cent of employers surveyed in both St. Catharines and Niagara Falls indicated plans to hire, but 17% of Garden City employers anticipate job cuts while 20% in the Falls plan to scale back, Moretti said.

In Fort Erie, 10% plan to hire and 10% plan to cut back.

Moretti did not have a breakdown of what sectors in Niagara planned to add or decrease jobs.

Manpower reported in Ontario and Quebec that growth is expected to be seen in public administration, transportation and public utilities, and financial, insurance and real estate sectors.

There are dozens of jobs out there if people do the legwork, said Dan Degazio, Welland's economic development manager.

"People don't go out and advertise jobs in the newspapers like they did 25 years ago," he said. "They're waiting for people to knock on

their door and hand them a resume."

Word of mouth and social media have become more mainstream ways of learning about jobs, he said, noting there's more than just part-time work at fast-food outlets available.

He rattled off a list of numerous Welland employers who have hired anywhere from 40 to 140 people in the past couple of years. Among them: ASW Steel, glazed window and door manufacturer Global Architectural Metals, electronics manufacturer E.D. Products, turbine parts manufacturer PowerBlades Industries, Welded Tube and the Welland McMaster Family

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Health Team building on Prince Charles Dr.

"And people like Canadian Tire (Financial Services) are hiring — and that's no chump change over there, and they have great benefits," Degazio said.

"No complaints from our perspective," he said, adding he hopes within the next

five weeks to make a new jobs announcement on a project he's been involved with for more than a year.

"There's a few more things coming down the pipe." At Welland-Pelham Chamber of Commerce, "robust" membership numbers are climbing — and the businesses they repre-

sent, well more than 500, are proving to have longevity, said executive director Dolores Fabiano.

"They're popping up left and right," she said. "It's very diverse. People are creating their own opportunities."

Speaking to newer businesses, she said entrepreneurs appear more in tune with how to go about getting established successfully than in previous years. There are many employment resources available and more opportunities for networking.

"There's a more nurturing, supportive environment because people want to see their neighbours — even their competitors — survive," Fabiano said.

Manpower reported that across Canada, employers expect a "modest hiring climate" for job seekers in the fourth quarter of 2014, with employers in the public administration sector reporting the strongest job prospects. The survey of more than 1,900 employers across the country found 12% plan to hire in the fourth quarter, while 7% anticipate cutbacks.

The Manpower Employment Outlook Survey is conducted quarterly in 42 countries to measure employers' intentions to increase or decrease the number of employees in their workforce.

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Twitter: @GregAtTheTrib



FILE PHOTO

In this Tribune file photo, job seekers line up in front on the Job Gym on East Main St. for the second day trying to get a position at PowerBlades Industries. Job fairs are being held there again today and Friday.

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■ **FENWICK LIONS CLUB:** Hog Heaven

Motorcyclists revving up for Biketoberfest

GREG FURMINGER
QMI Agency Niagara

Fenwick will take on a new name this weekend — Hog Heaven.

Hundreds of motorcycling enthusiasts will roll into the Pelham community for the wildly successful Biketoberfest 2014.

For 14-year Fenwick Lions Club member Bruce Bissell, it ranks right up there with the best of holidays.

"I started this thing back in 2003 — and everybody thought I was crazy."

"Over the past 11 years we've raised more than \$670,000 for charity," he

said, noting Biker TV will be back for a third year to film a national segment on the event.

Among beneficiaries are Lions Foundation of Canada, Canadian Diabetes Association research and the Fenwick Lions Community Projects.

About \$50,000 was raised last year — most of it through the sale of \$20 raffle tickets for a Harley-Davidson. Saturday's draw for a 2014 Harley-Davidson CVO Road King is at 6 p.m. Second prize is \$1,000 and third \$500.

For the first time, Deeley Harley-Davidson Canada will be at the event, to show its 2015 model lineup and to make the Canadian debut of Harley-

Davidson's electric bike

Bikeoberfest — moved from its original 10th-month slot for better riding weather; it snowed during its first run — starts Friday evening with a Ride of the Flags starting from the old Clare's Cycle on Hwy. 20, leaving at 6. Bissell expects between 100 and 300 riders to make the journey ending at Centennial Park on Church St., where the Chris Anton Band will be performing and the Lions will be holding an extended fish fry.

Saturday at the park is the main event.

"We have about 12,000 or 13,000 people who will show up that day. There will be guys with bikes, guys with trikes,



FILE PHOTO

Dozens of motorcyclists kick off Biketoberfest, presented at Centennial Park by the Fenwick Lions Club, in this 2009 file photo.

guys with jewelry, guys who do upholstery work..."

More than 40 vendors will be selling their goods and services starting 9 a.m. The day's featured bands are On Tap and Travelling Beer Bel-

lies.

A show and shine starts at 10 a.m. (registration until 3 p.m.). Trophies for vintage, stock, mild custom, full custom, sportster, sport bike, three-wheeler and Lions

choice

"We'll have all kinds of things going on," Bissell said. "It's a big day."

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LOCAL NEWS

POLICE

Guns and ammo seized in Pelham

GREG FURMINGER
QMI Agency Niagara

Alleged failure to possess a gun licence has resulted in what Niagara Regional Police are calling a "substantial seizure" of firearms and nearly 11,000 rounds of ammunition from a Foss Rd. home in Pelham.

Detectives with the guns, gangs and grows unit started an investigation this month into the unauthorized possession of hunting guns.

A search warrant was executed without incident at about 4 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 10, Const. Derek Watson said, with the assistance of the emergency task unit.

It was not immediately clear what led to the search warrant.

The search yielded 18 non-restricted firearms and 10,954 rounds of assorted ammunition.

Watson said the guns included an assortment of hunting rifles and shotguns. They included a .22-calibre rifle

and 30.06 rifle and a 20-gauge and numerous 12-gauge shotguns.

Timothy Swick, 47, has been charged with 18 counts of unauthorized possession of a firearm and four counts of careless storage of a firearm.

Police said the suspect surrendered himself to police and was later released from custody. He is scheduled to appear in court Friday, Oct. 31.

A photo provided by police showed a number of the guns inside a gun safe.

Under Canadian law, a Possession and Acquisition Licence is authorization to possess and register a firearm and to obtain ammunition. The licence must be kept current for as long as you possess firearms in Canada. It is renewable every five years.

greg.furminger@summedia.ca
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LOCAL NEWS

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Niagara Region



Bands uniting for Rock for Dimes

Musicians will again hit a high note for March of Dimes Canada.

Rock for Dimes takes place for a fourth time at Sheraton Shores' Live Lounge, on Friday, Sept. 26.

The Niagara event, similar to those being held across the country, is hoped to raise \$5,000 for people living with physical disabilities.

Performers include This Time Around, Phuzz, Moyalyn, Jeff Pooton and Sir Michael Prince. Jamie Rankin of Giant FM will be the evening's host.

All proceeds will benefit March of Dimes Canada's Campers Helping Campers program, for which fundraising takes place annually May to October.

Funds are used to subsidize costs associated with supporting a person who lives with a disability so they can enjoy a summer camping experience. Costs that are covered include specialized travel to and from camp, meals, attendant care, accommodations, supplies and day trips.

The Live Lounge event, for which doors open at 7 p.m., is open to the public. Sheraton Shores is at 490 Empire Rd. in Port Colborne.

Tickets are \$10 a person. To order tickets or for more information visit www.rockfordimes.ca/sheratonshores or call 1-800-263-3463 ext. 7380.

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COMMUNITY

Reunion for Pelham High alumni

QMI Agency Niagara

Former students of Pelham District High School have another opportunity to catch up with old friends — face-to-face.

The eighth reunion for the Fenwick school that first opened in 1928 will take place Saturday, Sept. 27, at Lipa Park on Oille St. in North Pelham from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The school — known over the years also as Pelham Continuation School and Pelham Secondary School — served students from Waldfleet, West Lincoln, Thorold, Welland, and Pelham. The school had a green-house, metal shop, automotive shop and woodworking shop, commercial and business classes and academic studies

which included Latin, French, English composition and literature, algebra, physics and chemistry along with many others to ready students for university or college. There were three school gyms.

During the mid- to late-'50s there were more than 1,400 students in the school. As the baby boomers began to hit high school

In 1958 Thorold Fonthill High School was built, taking with it students from Fonthill, Thorold and Welland. When E.L. Crossley Secondary School opened in 1963, only a few hundred students remained at Pelham High was left with only a few hundred. Dr. E.L. Crossley was the supervising principal of all three schools.

Pelham High was closed in 1974. Today the Canboro Rd. building is occupied by apartments.

More information on this month's reunion is available by e-mailing pelhamhighreunion@gmail.com or calling 905-882-7090.

Since 1985, the reunion has supported scholarships to graduating students at E.L. Crossley. To date \$42,000 has been given to students pursuing post-secondary education. This year recipients are Bayley Kohl, who is going to Fanshawe College to study business, and Courtney Steingart, who is going to University of Guelph to study mechanical engineering.

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LOCAL NEWS

Pelham to grow community garden in 2015

QMI Agency Niagara

The Town of Pelham is moving forward with a community garden.

Town council voted to support the project last week and plan to sign a lease with the project's organizers for the 2015 growing season.

The concept is a collaboration between Pelham's Communities in Bloom Committee, Pelham Horticultural Society and Greening Niagara, which

presented their business plan to councillors. After surveying local residents, the group decided the garden should be built at Pelham Arena on Halet St. and will

include 21 garden plots, including two that will be fully-accessible. It will cost \$6,625 to set up and run the garden in 2015, and then another \$2,000 to operate it

in 2016 and 2017.

Organizers plan to fundraise by leasing the plots to residents and by selling seedlings donated from the Comfort Maple tree.

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Pass me some more Apple-flavoured Kool-Aid

DAN DAKIN
QMI Agency Niagara

Just when I thought I was out, they pull me back in. Although, let's face it, I never really wanted out.

Last Tuesday, Apple reminded the world why it's the most innovative electronics company on the planet, and reminded me why I'll keep drinking the Apple-flavoured Kool-Aid.

Forget the iPhone 6 and 6 Plus, one of which I will absolutely be shelling out for as an upgrade to my iPhone 5. The big news out of Cupertino, Calif., was the Apple Watch.

Here's the thing with Apple: Having so much speculation leading up to its product launches usually results in a slightly disappointing experience when the rumours are mostly confirmed to be true.

But while we all knew the Apple Watch, or Watch, was coming, I doubt anyone expected what CEO Tim Cook announced last week.

The naysayers will denounce the fact you must own an iPhone for the iWatch to work properly, but that's just smart business.

For me, things like an on-board heart-rate monitor and the ability to track how active you are throughout the day are impressive, and important to get more people moving.

Most notably, though, the Apple Watch is the first smartwatch that doesn't look like something out of Star Trek or like one of those calculator watches popular in the early 1990s.

The Apple Watch has two sizes, three finishes and a variety of wristbands, which will all combine to make this massively popular.

From what I can tell, Canadian reaction to the news Tuesday went three ways: People were very excited; they couldn't care less; or they inferred it was anti-Canadian to like Apple products.

I hope you spend as much time on the new #BlackBerryPassport in a

couple of weeks," wrote one of my Twitter followers. Let's face it, though, I won't.

Here's the thing: If BlackBerry was still making products people actually wanted to stand hours in line for, I'd be far more interested. The problem is, they just don't.

Apple sucked me into its empire with the first iPhone in 2007. I bought one in the U.S. before they were available in Canada, and figured out how to make it work here.

Since then, I've owned a 3, 3G, 4S (which was stolen by a couple of little punks at a Starbucks in Niagara Falls) and now a 5. I don't love everything Apple makes, which is why I still prefer PC computers, but my feeling is there's no phone on the market that can touch the iPhone.

If that makes me somehow less Canadian, so be it.

dan.dakin@summedia.ca
Twitter: @dandakimedia



Dallas Green headlines Meridian's first concert

JOHN LAW
QMI Agency Niagara

Hometown rocker Dallas Green will officially open the new Meridian Centre arena in St. Catharines next month.

The Oct. 21 date was announced by Green on his Twitter page.

"Pretty excited to come home and play another show," he added later on Facebook, "and especially stoked that it's to christen the new arena!"

The St. Catharines-born Green, who performs under the moniker City and Colour, was among a renowned group of performers that included the Barenaked Ladies and Tragically Hip.

But Green, the former guitarist for hard rock band Alexisonfire, was the biggest name on the list — his most recent album, *The Hurry and the Harm*, debuted at No. 1 on the Canadian charts last year, and No. 16 in the U.S.

"It was somewhat of a challenge, but we wanted this guy from the beginning," said Rick Lane, the city's director of corporate strategic initiatives.

Green's show is part of the \$50-million arena's opening ceremonies. The Niagara IceDogs play their home opener Oct. 16.

St. Catharines Mayor Brian McMillan said organizers originally hoped to have a grand opening concert before the arena hosted its first hockey game, but plans had to change in order to nab Green.

"It's what we had to do in order to get him," he said. "He was always at the top of our list. I hope people will understand."

Green's name came up years ago when the arena was first pitched, McMillan added. As he kept getting more popular, it got harder to book him.

He credits arena operators SMG Canada and its relationship with concert promoters Live Nation for getting the deal done.

"It's something we'd always hoped, to find somebody who St. Catharines/Niagara roots," he said. "To see it all come together, I can't think of a better artist or individual than Dallas Green to open our new spectator facility."

"It was the logical choice," added Meridian Centre general manager Ken Noakes. "Dallas has a huge, loyal fan base in this city and this country, and we wanted to open the building with a bang."

Noakes said negotiations weren't so much difficult as they were "complicated," especially with Green touring the U.S. this fall.

It will mark his first local show since playing Butler's Barracks in Niagara-on-the-Lake last summer for a day-long concert that included Serena Ryder and Metric.

Green co-founded Alexisonfire in St. Catharines in 2001, and the band's dynamic 10-year run included four albums, intense live shows and a 2005 Juno Award for new group of the year.

As City and Colour, Green has found even bigger success, winning three Juno Awards including songwriter of the year in 2009 and 2012.

In May, the 33-year-old singer/songwriter played a sold-out show at the Air Canada Centre in Toronto.

The Meridian Centre will have capacity for 6,000 people for concerts, and 4,500 for hockey games. It's located in the former lower level parking on McGuire St., with two pedestrian bridges connecting to St. Paul St.

Tickets for the opening show will cost \$59.50 plus service charges, on sale at www.cityandcolour.com, livenation.com and Ticketmaster outlets.

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"It works! I'll take another two bottles please!"

This coming from a customer who had tried every other natural remedy under the sun in the past few years to take away her pain. Ian, the owner of The Healthy Cupboard couldn't believe his ears. He had finally found the perfect product to stop his customer's miseries. This is what every owner of a health food store dreams about, a natural product that receives so much outstanding testimonials on such a wide variety of health issues. "I had recommended a new product called LeafSource, which we recently started carrying. We have had tremendous success with this product, and almost everyone we have recommended it to over the last few months has come back and thanked us over and over again!" said Ian. Before trying LeafSource, the woman had complained about her ongoing joint pain and was at her wit's end. Although she had experienced some relief through the numerous natural remedies she had tried over the years, the pain would never fully go away. "She returned to my store, in tears, less than one week after buying LeafSource. I didn't know what

to make of this woman standing in front of me crying, until she told me that within a few days of taking LeafSource her pain started to disappear and within a week it was completely gone - as if it was never there." Ian goes on, "This coming from a woman whose painful joints and ongoing sciatica were so bad just one week earlier, that the pain was unbearable but now has completely subsided." By now you are probably wondering what is LeafSource and why is it so effective? LeafSource is a 100% natural product derived from a proprietary organic mineral composite with over ten years of university research. LeafSource helps regulate the inflammatory process and the body's ability to repair itself. The vast majority (70 - 80%) of the population over the age of 50 have joint problems - often called osteoarthritis. This is due to the natural (or unnatural) wear and tear on joint tissue that develops through the aging process. With joint inflammation, movement is limited and pain can be constant. LeafSource seems to have the ability to help people get their mobility

and zest for life back. Millions of people seek treatment for their joint and inflammation problems by resorting to expensive, toxic prescription drugs (i.e. NSAIDs) with multiple side effects. These range from nausea and vomiting to serious intestinal disorders (bleeding, gas, pain) and even kidney and liver failure. Isn't that too large a price to pay for a little pain relief? LeafSource is a safe alternative to these destructive anti-inflammatory drugs that cause more problems than they solve. There are absolutely no side effects and it doesn't interfere with any other medications. Controlled experiments and observations have revealed that LeafSource is a potent anti-inflammatory that has been shown to bring a reduction to inflammation and pain within a few days. People notice great results in terms of more energy and less pain by taking anywhere from 2 to 6 capsules/day. Typical maintenance is usually 1 capsule twice daily. This product gets results! LeafSource is scientifically validated through more than 10 years of research at 4 universities, including the Department of

Pharmaceutical Sciences, Mercer University. Aside from its incredible anti-inflammatory and pain reducing ability, it has also been shown to improve the performance of your daily nutrition and vitamin programs. It helps increase the absorption of vital nutrients, which in turn helps these nutrients work better. Better absorption = better results! It's almost as if they have become supercharged! LeafSource has also been shown to help enhance energy levels, improve intestinal health, strengthen hair, skin and nails and improve immune function. To see someone go from intense pain to a new lease on life within a week is

truly incredible. Imagine being able to move freely without pain. Who wouldn't want to get out of bed in the morning with more energy? It's amazing how much of this stuff we take for granted, until it's gone! Ian adds, "I often recommend that LeafSource be taken with other natural joint products in order to help them work better and provide even faster relief. One of the things I hear most often from people who have tried LeafSource is they just plain feel better, have more energy and less pain. We're so confident, we guarantee LeafSource 100%!" That alone should be enough to try this incredible product."

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